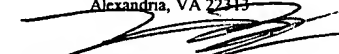


1AP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 AUG 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:**

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.